

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefore. Please charge the required Petition fee to Deposit Account No. 03-1240.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess to our Deposit Account No. 03-1240.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presented herein is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 3 - 9 remain in this application. Claim 2 was previously cancelled.

In the Office Action dated May 6, 2004, all pending claims 1, 3-7, 8/1 and 9 of the current application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being rendered obvious by Nomura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,948,991) in view of Nitta (JP 62194341 A). It is respectfully argued that the current invention, as recited in the amended claims, is neither anticipated nor made obvious by Nomura et al., either alone or in combination with Nitta. The applicant would like to point out the following distinctive features of the pressure sensor of the present invention.

The pressure sensor according to the amended claim 1 of the present application is characterized by the following features:

- (a) A pressure-sensitive section that is affixed to a base by fluoroc elastomer.

(b) A sensor package, which encloses the pressure-sensitive section, is affixed to a base by the fluoric elastomer.

Furthermore, the pressure sensor according to claims 4 to 7 of the present application is characterized by the following features:

(c) The pressure-sensitive section and a lead are covered by a fluoric gel, and the fluoric elastomer which affixes the pressure-sensitive section and/or the sensor package to the base is harder after solidification than the fluoric gel.

The applicant respectfully argues that the above features are not disclosed or rendered obvious by the combined teachings of Nomura et al. and Nitta. As acknowledged in the Office Action (at page 2), Nomura et al. does not describe or suggest use of fluoric elastomer as adhesive. Although use of fluoric elastomer is described in Nitta, it is used as a material of a porous waterproofing separation membrane (5, 35), and is not as the adhesive. Nitta discloses that the silicone gel (4, 34) is used in order to assemble and to protect a pressure-sensitive chip (1, 31), and the concrete technique for affixing the sensor package to the base is not disclosed in Nitta. Moreover, the member denoted by reference numeral 37 in FIG. 3 of Nitta is not the adhesive, but a seal ring. Furthermore, in Nitta, the silicone gel which is used to assemble the pressure-sensitive chip has predetermined elasticity for absorbing the stress generated in the pressure-sensitive chip, as described in lines 1 to 10 of column 7 of the original Japanese specification, and the silicone gel that is used to protect the pressure-sensitive chip has predetermined hardness in order to reduce its pressure loss to zero, as described in lines 13 to 15 of column 8 of the original Japanese specification. Nitta thus teaches that the silicone gel that is used to protect the pressure-sensitive chip is harder than

the silicone gel that is used to assemble the pressure-sensitive chip. Consequently, the above-mentioned features (a) to (c) of the present application are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the teachings of Nomura et al. and Nitta. With regard to the rejection to the dependent claims, since all dependent claims incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1, which is patentable over the cited references, the dependent claims are therefore patentable as well.

As explained above, the cited reference fail to teach certain important features of the claimed pressure sensor, as recited in the amended claims, and said features have a direct bearing on the advantages of the present invention. In view of the foregoing, the applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in the amended claims, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited prior art references. Entry of this amendment and an early favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested. Should any questions arise concerning this Amendment & Response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for the applicant.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 in an envelope addressed to:

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DATE: September 7, 2004

NAME: Daniel Basov

SIGNATURE: Daniel Basov

Respectfully submitted,

By Daniel Basov

Daniel Basov, Esq.
Reg. # 42,303

Chadbourn & Parke LLP
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112
(212) 408-5275

Attorneys for Applicant

September 7, 2004